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Ground Water Sampling to Begin This Spring

Lane Street Groundwater Contamination Site
Elkhart, Indiana

April 2011

Public meeting

EPA invites you to a meeting on the Lane Street Ground Water Contamination site on **Wednesday, May 11, 2011**. The meeting is an opportunity to learn about the work being done at the site and how the project may affect you.

Representatives from EPA and IDEM will be available at the meeting to talk with community members.

The meeting will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at: **Osolo Elementary School**,
24975 CR 6 E, Elkhart

EPA needs your help

As part of the Superfund process, EPA needs to prepare a community involvement plan. This plan will help EPA get a better understanding of the community's concerns regarding the Lane Street site and how best EPA might communicate with the community. This plan is based largely on in-depth interviews with residents, local government officials and others interested in the site. Please see the enclosed flyer about scheduling an interview in May 2011.

Contact information

See the back page for contact information of the EPA and other federal, state and local officials who are working on this site.

The back page also lists websites for additional information about the site and information on TCE.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is getting ready to begin field work this spring at the Lane Street Ground Water Contamination site. The primary purpose of this investigation will be to determine the extent of the ground water contamination under a local industrial park and along Lane Street. "Ground water" is an environmental term for underground supply of fresh water. This work will also try to determine the source of the contamination.

The initial investigation will include ground water sampling from the private drinking water wells still operating in the area. There will also be drilling at 25 separate locations to sample ground water at different depths. A direct-push drill rig will be used to collect the samples at these places. Samples will be collected at 10-foot intervals at each location, from the water table depth to approximately 60 feet below the ground surface. During the drilling at 10 of these spots, soil samples will also be gathered.

History and background

The Lane Street Ground Water Contamination site is located on the northeast side of Elkhart, Indiana. The area includes a mass of contaminated ground water that extends toward the south from an industrial park north of County Road 106 to neighborhood homes located along Lane Street. The source of the pollution has not yet been identified. The contamination includes trichlorethylene, or TCE, and other chlorinated solvents at levels higher than what are considered safe. The problem was discovered in August 2007 when a Lane Street resident had their well water tested.

Following that discovery, wells at other homes on the street were sampled and more pollution was found. Initially, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management furnished bottled water to 13 homes where wells were contaminated or near the tainted water supplies.

Later, EPA provided water filtration systems to these 13 homes. After further investigation, EPA connected 26 homes in the area to the municipal water supply, completing this project in November 2008. Other homes on Lane Street farther south of the original problem were already connected to city water.

In September 2009, the site was officially added to EPA's National Priorities List or NPL. The NPL is a roster of the nation's hazardous waste sites eligible for cleanup under the EPA Superfund program.

Next steps

Results from this latest round of sampling will be used to determine the locations for approximately 16 semi-permanent clusters of monitoring wells. Each cluster will contain two wells – shallow and deep.

These wells will be sampled periodically to get more information on what is happening with the underground water.

For more information

EPA contacts

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Region 5 toll-free
800-621-8431, weekdays,
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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IDEM contacts

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City of Elkhart contact
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Health-related contacts

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John Hulewicz
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Environmental Health Services Division
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Websites

Lane Street Site
www.epa.gov/region5/sites/lanestreet

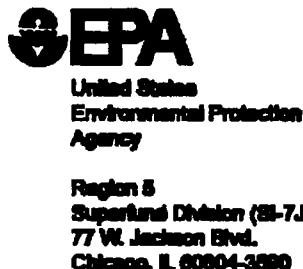
IDEM Federal Programs Section

<http://www.in.gov/idem/4152.htm>

For information on Trichloroethylene

ATSDR
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.pdf

Indiana Department of Health
www.in.gov/isdh/18878.htm



**LANE STREET GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION SITE:
Work Begins This Spring**



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